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By Public Information Office

Main News

- Oslo donors pledge around \$5 billion to Sudan (ST)
- Census ends unsuccessfully in South Sudan (ST)
- Sudan says 90 percent covered on last day of census (ST)

UN/Agencies

- Support CPA – SRSG tells donors in Oslo (The Citizen)
- UN Ki-Moon condemns Darfur bombing by Sudanese army (ST)
- Humanitarian Security Initiative and UNMIS wrap up workshop on human rights awareness (Al-Sudani)

GoNU

- Forests Corporation refuses to allocate land to UNAMID (Al-Sahafa)
- American Embassy commends completion of census exercise (Al-Sahafa)
- Kodi says government igniting conflict in Abyei (Khartoum Monitor)
- Sudanese investigators end preliminary investigation on plane crash (ST)
- Uganda rebels say Kony will meet mediators (Sudan Vision)

GoSS

- Deng refuses to hand over SPLM office to his successor (Khartoum Monitor)
- Bodies of late Justin Yaac and wife flown to Warrap state for burial (ST)

Darfur

- US to help equip Rwandans for Darfur peacekeeping (ST)
- Sudan slams France for renewing Nur's residence (Sudan Vision)

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Highlights

Main News

Oslo donors pledge around \$5 billion to Sudan

(ST) May 7, 2008 (OSLO) — International donor countries and organizations pledged nearly \$5 billion in aid to assist Sudan through 2011 to implement a 2005 north-south peace deal in the troubled country.

Sudan asked donor nations meeting this week for \$6.1 billion over the next three years to help rebuild Africa's largest nation after decades of civil wars. The first donor conference in 2005 raised \$4.5 billion for Sudan.

The \$4.8 billion pledged by international donors at the Sudan Consortium will support humanitarian, recovery and development efforts in the whole of Sudan for the period 2008 to 2011.

Part of the development funds will be channeled through two complementary mechanisms - the Multi Donor Trust Funds administrated by the World Bank which will receive an estimated US\$650 million; and the newly created Sudan Recovery Fund managed by the UN.

"I'm very happy. The reconfirmation of the donor countries' commitments to Sudan shows that this was very successful," Hartwig Schaefer, director of strategy at the World Bank, said as the end of the two-day donors conference in Oslo.

Many of the roughly 200 delegates at the meeting had expressed high hopes of matching the \$4.5 billion pledged over four years at the first donors' meeting held in Oslo in 2005.

When the meeting opened Tuesday, Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha called for increased support to help Africa's largest nation recover from 21 years of war, which has cost 2 million lives.

Host Norway immediately pledged \$500 million between 2008 and 2011. The European Union promised \$435 million for the same period.

Wednesday, Japan and Germany promised to double their aid contributions, to \$200 million and \$29 million, respectively.

The head of the Japanese delegation said Sudan geographical strategic position and its influence on neighbouring countries pushed his country "to do something" to help for its stability.

While, Gabriele Geier, the chief of the German delegation, likened aid to Sudan to the Marshall Plan that helped rebuild her own country after World War II.

Dave Fish, head of the British delegation pledged \$650 million in assistance to Sudan. However he emphasized that "the extent to which these funds can be used for development will depend crucially on resolution of the Darfur crisis."

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid said the European Commission would provide 300 million euros (\$464.7 million) over the next six years on top of 100 million euros in humanitarian aid this year.

The donors, 30 countries and international organizations, insisted on the importance of pushing forward with the implementation of the 2005 peace agreement as well as making progress to resolve the conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, ravaged by a separate civil war.

Hilde Frafjord Johnson, deputy executive director of UNICEF said South Sudan region should not be "held hostage" to the crisis in Darfur adding that it needs aid to continue flowing to improve living conditions.

Hilde, who is former Norwegian aid minister and played an important role during Naivasha talks, said the 2005 peace had suffered two major setbacks: The death of John Garang in a July 2005 plane crash, and continued fighting in Sudan's troubled Darfur province.

The donors also hope more money this time will be allocated to development rather than emergency aid, but say, the Darfur crisis, which has continued despite a 2005 north-south peace treaty, stands in the way. The two-thirds of 2005 pledges are spent on humanitarian aid.

Prior to the two-day Consortium, officials from Sudan's Government of National Unity and Government of South Sudan met with representatives of the international donor community in a closed session to discuss how to address the situation in Darfur.

Census ends unsuccessfully in South Sudan

(ST) May 7, 2008 (JUBA) – The population and housing census in Southern Sudan officially ended on Tuesday, May 6, unsuccessfully according to reports from various states in the region.

The Chairperson for the Southern Sudan Census, Statistics and Evaluation Commission, Mr. Isaiah Chol Aruai, in a press statement he issued on Tuesday, estimated that about ninety to ninety-five percent (90% to 95%) of South Sudan population has been counted.

Aruai blamed a number of challenges for not achieving a 100% headcount. He said insecurity in the South coupled with heavy rainfalls in some states were among the obstacles to the success of the census.

The Census Chairperson however concluded that the exercise went on well.

Sample reports from various states such as Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile and Lakes states dispute the census results, saying many more areas have not been reached and counted in the region.

For instance, Census Field Coordinators in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, reported that several villages near to the North-South border have been counted to the northern population by enumerators from Southern Kordufan while dozens of villages more were not mapped in the census mapping and therefore could not be located for the count.

A similar report came out of Rumbek where about twenty-eight villages and many more cattle camps were not counted because they were not included in the census mapping. Some villages, although mapped, could not be accessed because of insecurity in the area, the report added.

Census Field Coordinators also complain about lack of transport, saying in some situations two Counties had to share only one vehicle for the enumeration exercise and without means to communicate.

There is also a wide range of complaints by enumerators that promises by respective state census offices to make them sign contracts in order to get paid after the exercise have not materialized, leaving enumerators confused and worried whether they would get paid or not.

The Sudan Population and Housing count is the most important mechanism in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) meant to determine how power and wealth should be shared between North and South in accordance with the census results.

The results of the Census will also be used for determining political constituencies prior to the conduct of the country's general elections in 2009.

The government will also use this in planning for distribution of basic services across this vast country.

Aruai said the next step is for the census authority in the country to compile, analyze and disseminate the results within the next three months.

Sudan says 90 percent covered on last day of census

(ST) May 6, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's highly politicized census drew to a close on Tuesday with monitors estimating the country was 90 percent covered, although many in the capital Khartoum said they had not yet been counted.

The census will help determine wealth and power sharing between Sudan's north and south — which fought a two-decade long civil war — ahead of next year's elections, the country's first democratic vote in 23 years.

But disputes over its content and procedure have delayed it for months and observers fear many may reject its results.

The census was hit by boycotts, demonstrations and lost questionnaires. More than 100 northern monitors were expelled from the south and Darfur rebels said they kidnapped 13 staff.

"We have done it at last and we have done it successfully," said the head of the census monitoring commission Abdel Bagi Gailani. "There is degree of coverage reached which is quite acceptable to me."

"I can guesstimate it as much as 90 percent of the whole of the country — this is a marvellous success," Gailani said.

MANY UNCOUNTED

Sudan's 2005 north-south peace accord did not cover the separate conflict in its western Darfur region where many people, including those in camps housing some 2 million people, rejected the count because they do not trust the government.

Gailani said West Darfur was covered 85 percent, and North and South Darfur states covered 90 percent.

But people in at least seven districts of Khartoum said they had not been counted and neither had many of their friends and family, raising doubts about the accuracy of the count.

Gailani said he himself had not been counted. He said census staff were considering opening some offices for one or two days after the count so that those who were missed could be included.

In the south many said it was unlikely everyone would be counted before the end of the day on Tuesday.

Gabriel Duar, a local official in the rural south, said some people would be left out of the census because he had no boat to cross a river and count people on the other side.

"We don't have an area that has reached 100 percent," southern Sudan's Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation head Isaiah Chol Aruai told journalists.

"(But) there's no state below 80 or 85 percent".

Aruai said challenges included insecurity, heavy and early rains and larger-than-expected numbers of people in some areas.

Large numbers of refugees and people displaced by the north-south conflict had returned home since mapping was completed a year ago, rendered it inaccurate, Arwai said.

[UN/Agencies](#)

[Support CPA – SRSG tells donors in Oslo](#)

(The Citizen) SRS Ashraf Qazi has asked donors to pay special attention to the CPA saying that Abyei people are suffering the non-implementation of the treaty. Mr. Qazi stated that in his Address to over 30 countries and organizations, which are attending the two-day Sudan Consortium meeting in Oslo, Norway.

Mr. Qazi said, “The CPA is foundation upon which a sustainable peace in Sudan can and must be built”.

Unlike with many other peace agreements, the parties to the CPA have remained steadfast in honoring their respective pledges not to revert to war. While we rightly commend the parties on the progress made so far, we are also obliged to highlight the challenges that lie ahead. The first and the foremost of these is the issue of Abyei, he said. The people of Abyei have yet to benefit from the CPA. There has been no peace dividend for them so far. Since the signing of the CPA, they have remained deprived of the most basic services.

He highlighted other challenges such as the process of demarcating the 1.1.56 Line, which while progressing, remains a behind schedule. He also urged the Government to pass the Electoral Law and establish the Elections Commission as soon as possible. Sudan will conduct national elections in 2009. However, the Parliament is yet to pass the electoral and other laws essential to provide an appropriate legal framework for the electoral process. The lack of an electoral law has delayed the formation of the National Elections Commission.

On Darfur, he said,” it is clear that a comprehensive peace in Sudan will not be achieved without a resolution of the Darfur conflict. But even more clear is the fact that without the CPA, there will not be a Darfur Peace Process. CPA implementation and the Darfur peace process must accordingly be addressed on the basis of a comprehensive peace strategy.

It must be frankly stated that there has been a tendency to acknowledge the centrality of the CPA process while focusing attention, policy and resources on Darfur. There is no doubt that the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur cries out for redress. But let us not forget that millions also died during the North-South conflict. More than a generation was lost, Millions more were displaced.

UN Ki-Moon condemns Darfur bombing by Sudanese army

(ST) May 7, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) – The U.N. Secretary General on Wednesday condemned Sudanese government air raids in Sudan’s western Darfur region which killed 14 civilians last week.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly deplored the recent bombings of villages in North Darfur that have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries, and called on all parties to the conflict in the strife-torn Sudanese region to cease hostilities and ensure the protection of civilians.

“In particular, the bombing of a school, water installations and a market in the villages of Um Sidir, Ein Bassar and Shegeg Karo are entirely unacceptable,” Ban said..

An Antonov of the Sudanese army killed 11 civilians in Shegeg Karo area in North Darfur state and wounded 4 child and 2 women, the attack occurred on the market day. The army bomber also killed three brothers in Ain Bassir area, east of Jebel Midoub.

The Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms Ameerah Haq said in a statement yesterday deeply concerned about the reported attacks on civilian installations in North Darfur. Haq, called for immediate access to the concerned areas so that seriously injured civilians can be medically evacuated.

The joint UN-African Union Mission in Darfur, known as UNAMID, has assisted in the evacuation of casualties following last week's attacks, which left three dead and at least eight injured.

The UN AU peacekeeping mission said over the weekend that initial reports suggest that the area, which is controlled by the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), "has witnessed repeated aerial attacks and possible fighting between government and rebel forces."

A UNAMID fact-finding mission is currently conducting an investigation on the ground, while the peacekeeping forces continue to monitor the situation, the Mission added.

Mr. Ban also voiced concern at increasing acts of banditry "which complicate humanitarian operations and impede UNAMID ability to carry out its mandate."

He once again called on all parties to the Darfur conflict – which have claimed more than 200,000 lives and displaced nearly 2.5 million others since 2003 – to urgently cease hostilities, ensure the protection of civilians and to work with UNAMID to promote security.

[Humanitarian Security Initiative and UNMIS wrap up workshop on human rights awareness \(Al-Sudani\)](#)

(Al-Sudani) May 7 - The Humanitarian Security Initiative Organization concluded yesterday a workshop designed to raise human rights awareness and to highlight state commitments under international human rights conventions.

The workshop was held in collaboration with UNMIS Human Rights during 5-6 May at Dr. Mohamed Abdul Hai Hall.

Many papers were presented at the workshop on topics such as human rights, comparison between the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights, conventions signed/ratified by Sudan, rule of the rule, protection of women rights, national human rights bodies and relationship of civil society organizations with the media.

[GoNU](#)

[Forests Corporation refuses to allocate land to UNAMID](#)

(Al-Sahafa) Forests Workers Trade Union have called upon President Omer Bashir and UNSG Ban Ki-Moon to intervene urgently to overrule a decision by North Darfur State Government to allocate land to UNAMID to set up airstrip.

Director of Forests Corporation Dr. Abdul Azim Mirghani has accused State authorities of acting against the law adding that these lands should not be granted to anybody except on the basis of a decree from the President of the Republic, recommended by the Federal Cabinet.

Environment activists have expressed displeasure over such a step and have called for an end to encroachment upon forests.

The trade union statement expressed astonishment stating that at a time when international agreements call for combating desertification, UN troops seek to fell trees to set up an airstrip.

American Embassy commends completion of census exercise

(Al-Sahafa) US Embassy in Khartoum issued press release yesterday commending efforts made by the GoNU particularly the First Vice President Salva Kiir , GoSS, Central Bureau of Statistics and Census Commission in southern Sudan, UN and donor countries towards success of census in Sudan.

The press release affirmed Washington's support and encouragement to GoNU and GoSS at all phases of census.

The statement condemned violent acts carried out by rebels groups in Darfur which disrupted progress of census and expressed concern that important sectors in Darfur southern Kordofan might not have been adequately counted.

Kodi says government igniting conflict in Abyei

(Khartoum Monitor) Deputy Governor of Southern Kordofan State Daniel Kodi said that the Khartoum government is igniting conflict in Abyei while speaking at press conference yesterday at Khartoum Airport.

He disclosed that the government of southern Kordofan State has a work plan for implementing a project in which all tribes of the State will be involved with a view to enhancing co-existence and patching up the social fabric.

He added that the State in the last few months has witnessed fourteen incidents which have breached security in the State and that fact finding committees have been set up to investigate the incidents and bring criminals to justice.

Kodi emphasized the implementation of the Southern Kordofan Protocol as well as the Blue Nile Protocol. He went on to say that the government in Khartoum misappropriates the funds allocated to Southern Kordofan State while the CPA provides for allocation of funds for the three areas which were affected by war. This is in order to develop health and education services in the areas. Regrettably, the funds are diverted to areas which are not affected by war like Keilak and Abu Jibeiha,. That

is not credible on the part of the Federal government, as represented by the Ministry of Finance, he said.

Kodi said he rejected the Kharasana agreement between the governor of Southern Kordofan State, Omer Suleiman Adam and Governor of Unity State, Taban Deng. He attributed the low census performance in Southern Kordofan State which realized 28% to the presidency which did not heed to his decree of boycotting the census on the account that no development work or services were rendered in Southern Kordofan.

Sudanese investigators wrap up preliminary investigation on plane crash

(ST) May 7, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese investigators have completed the gruesome task of sifting through the wreckage of the Beech 1900 that crashed last week and started preparing their technical report.

Due to technical failure, a plane of South Sudan Air Connection came down on Friday May 2, 375 kilometers from Juba, killing everyone on board including South Sudan army minister Dominic Dim Deng and Justin Yac Arop, GoSS presidential Adviser for Decentralization.

The deputy director of the Sudan Civil Aviation Authority and member of the technical investigation team, Mohamed Saleh al-Kenani said the investigators had visited the site of the accident, 15 km east of Rumbek, and returned to Khartoum carrying the black box, which should explain why the Beech craft crashed.

He further said that the black box would be sent to the nearest examination centre outside Sudan by the competent authorities very soon.

Following the crash, the civilian aviation authority disclosed that it had blamed GoSS minister of transport for authorizing private foreign companies to operate in south Sudan without examining their planes by its competent service.

South Sudanese officials said following the accident that the plane's captain reported engine trouble and requested an emergency landing in Rumbek airstrip. However, the plane crashed before reaching the airport.

Gabriel Changson Chan, southern Sudan's information minister, told the Sudanese TV last Friday that most of the planes operating in South Sudan are ancient and not technically controlled.

Uganda rebels say Kony will meet mediators

(Sudan Vision) Uganda's fugitive guerrilla Joseph Kony will meet mediators on Saturday on the Sudan-Congo border and may even sign a final peace deal, a rebel negotiator said on Wednesday.

But the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) still wants more details on how Uganda's government plans to use traditional reconciliation rituals to help him avoid prosecution for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

Talks to end Kony's 22-year insurgency looked to have collapsed last month when the LRA commander sacked his chief negotiator and then failed to appear at a signing ceremony in a forest clearing on the remote frontier.

Kony's new negotiator, James Obita, told Reuters that the elusive rebel boss would turn up this time.

"On May 10 Kony is ready to meet leaders from northern Uganda, the mediator (south Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar) and probably sign the final peace agreement," he said.

"But he requests that we hold a workshop to clarify the relationship between the traditional justice systems and the ICC."

Uganda's civil war has killed tens of thousands of people, uprooted 2 million more and de-stabilized neighbouring parts of oil-producing southern Sudan and mineral-rich eastern Congo.

This year, LRA fighters have also attacked villages and killed civilians in Central African Republic, aid workers say.

Obita was among LRA representatives visiting the Ugandan capital Kampala for talks with religious and traditional leaders on how to save nearly two years of negotiations.

At the centre of their discussions is a government offer to call for the scrapping of ICC indictments naming LRA leaders if Kony signs a final peace deal. Ancient northern Uganda reconciliation rituals would be used instead, it says.

Kony and two of his top deputies are wanted for war crimes including rape, murder and the kidnapping of thousands of children to serve as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

One of those deputies, Okot Odhiambo, was said to have been killed in fierce inter-LRA fighting last month.

The Hague-based ICC says its warrants remain active, and that Uganda is legally obliged to hand over its targets.

On Wednesday, a group of 40 non-governmental organisations urged all parties in the conflict not to give up on talks.

"A failure to secure the peace and resort to a 'military solution' would trigger renewed fears of insecurity and threaten the considerable progress made on the ground in northern Uganda," it said.

[GoSS](#)

[Deng refuses to hand over SPLM office to his successor](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The Unity State Governor Brig. Taban Deng, who was the former Chairman of SPLM in the State, has refused to hand over the SPLM office to his successor Joseph Monyutil who triumphed over him through democratic elections. A reliable source from Juba told the Khartoum Monitor that the elections committee for the convention of SPLM in Juba told Taban Deng to hand over the Office to Joseph Monyutil through a memorandum that reached him on 5.5.2008.

Taban Deng has raised complaints to the elections committee saying that the elections were not fair and that unless the committee responds to his complaint, he will not hand over the office.

The source asserted that Joseph Monyutil took the office himself, but found no office assets. The source said Deng has taken them all to his house.

Bodies of late Justin Yaac and wife flown to Warrap state for burial

(ST) May 7, 2008 (JUBA) – The bodies of late Dr. Justin Yaac Arop and his wife were flown to Warrap state today, Wednesday, for burial.

The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny and the GoSS Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Dr. Luka Tombekana Monoja accompanied the bodies along with relatives of the deceased.

They will be buried in Turalei, Twic County of Warrap state.

The two perished in a Kenyan company's hired Beach 1900 plane crash on May 2, near Rumbek town together with Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim Deng, Minister for SPLA Affairs, his wife, and 17 others including the crew members.

Late Dominic Dim and his wife, Josephine Aken were buried on Tuesday at Bilpam SPLA GHQs about three kilometers north of Juba.

The rest of the victim's bodies were taken to their respective counties and country for burial.

Darfur

US to help equip Rwandans for Darfur peacekeeping

(ST) May 8, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — The United States is helping to equip Rwandan troops who will be heading to Darfur and is trying to find helicopters for the peacekeeping force in the conflict-wracked region, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan said Wednesday.

A joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force took over duties in Darfur in January from a beleaguered AU force to try to stem the violence. But it only has about 7,500 troops and fewer than 2,000 police on the ground, out of a total of 26,000 that have been authorized.

There are currently four Rwandan battalions with about 2,700 troops in Darfur, and the soldiers being equipped and trained by the U.S. will replace many of them as they complete their tour of duty in the coming months, the U.N. said. When the Rwandan troop contingent is fully deployed, it will have four larger battalions with about 3,200 troops.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Williamson, who took over in January as President George W. Bush's special envoy, said about 900 Rwandan troops will be trained, equipped and ready to deploy in June and another 1,600 by August.

"We're providing training as well as equipment as part of President Bush's US\$100 million commitment to help prepare African peacekeepers," he said.

It is unclear, however, when the Rwandan peacekeepers will actually arrive in Darfur.

Rodolphe Adada, the envoy for the AU-U.N. force known as UNAMID, said last month that the joint mission faces major problems in putting troops into a very hostile environment. It still lacks five critical capabilities to become operational attack helicopters, surveillance aircraft, transport helicopters, military engineers and logistical support.

Williamson said U.S. Defense Department were at U.N. headquarters Wednesday working with the U.N. to try to solve the helicopter needs.

In late March, Williamson urged the United Nations to get 3,600 new peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur by June, saying additional troops are the best hope of increasing security.

"Our difficulty is that the U.N. does not yet have the capacity to accept them," he said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

Williamson said the United States appreciates statements by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl Lute, and Adada that the U.N. will be able to get 80 percent of the authorized force into Darfur by the end of the year and looks forward to hearing details of future deployments.

"We think it's absolutely necessary to get boots on the ground and we think it's possible," Williamson said, adding that Bush and Ban discussed the issue within the last week.

Adada has said the first new battalions for Darfur from Egypt and Ethiopia are expected to arrive in June. Each will have 800 troops.

Rwanda's U.N. Ambassador Joseph Nsengimana said the U.S. help will enable its troops to fully deploy.

"We need a lot of equipment and the United States has accepted to give it to complete four battalions," he said.

"Rwanda is really committed for helping peacekeeping, mainly (because) we suffered from non-participation no help in the 1994 genocide," Nsengimana said. "The consequence has been that we want to help all people who are suffering, and it is the commitment of the government of Rwanda."

The Darfur conflict began in early 2003 when ethnic African rebels took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated central government, accusing it of discrimination. Many of the worst atrocities in the war have been blamed on the janjaweed militia of Arab nomads allied with the government. The U.N. says 2.5 million people have been forced from their homes and the death toll from the more than five-year conflict could be 300,000.

Ban, the U.N. secretary-general, expressed concern Wednesday at increasing acts of banditry and deplored recent bombings of a school, water installations and a market in North Darfur, U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said.

"The secretary-general reiterates his call for all parties to urgently cease hostilities, ensure the protection of civilians and to work with UNAMID to promote security and commit to the political process being led by the special envoys of the United Nations and African Union," she said.

Sudan slams France for renewing Nur's residence

(Sudan Vision) The Sudanese government has criticized France for renewing the residence permit of SLM leader Abdulwahid Mohammed Nur as Presidential Advisor, Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail, held the step as part of the French policy towards Darfur. "France is talking about peace in Darfur while refraining from sending a clear message to Nur urging him to join the peace process," Dr. Ismail said.

He expressed his hope that some western countries renounce their dubious practices and reconcile their actions to their declared stances and statements related to resolving Darfur problem through dialogue.

He added that rejection of the British initiative was an expected response from Nur who continued to reject every move made to resolve Darfur crisis. He described Nur's demand for reaching an agreement first and joining the negotiations later as "an odd attitude".

In a different development, Dr. Ismail revealed during his meeting with Chairman of the East Front that 60% of the provisions of East Sudan Peace Agreement have been implemented during the past seven months, noting that committees at the level of the center and the states are engaged in preparing comprehensive files on the progress of the East Sudan agreement and the obstacles that confront it. The results reached by these committee, he said, will be compiled in a unified report and submitted to the higher committee for decision-making.

For his part, the Chairman of East Sudan Front, Musa Mohammed Ahmed, said he was satisfied with the progress so far achieved along the three files of the agreement, pointing out that the security arrangements files will be finalized next week. He reiterated that implementation of urgent projects will start by the middle of the current

month while the remaining items will be finally decided during the coming meeting of the higher committee to be held next week under the chairmanship of the Vice President of the Republic.